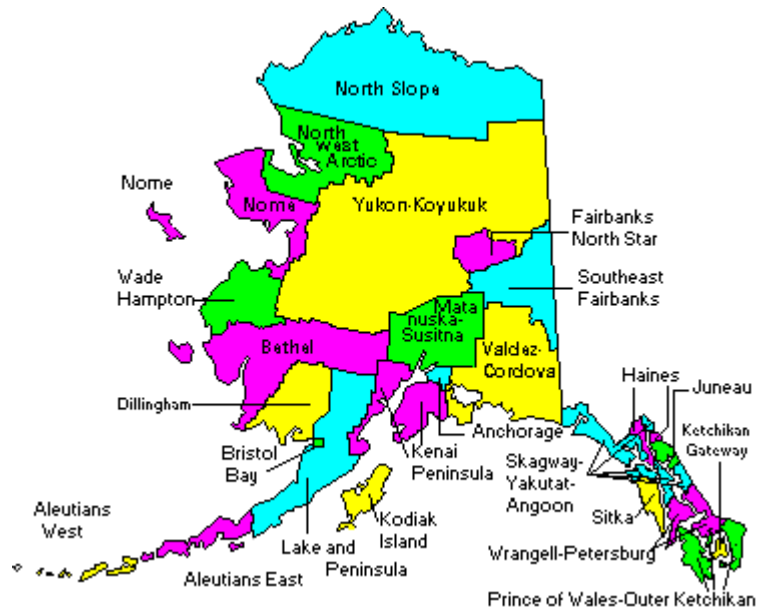


Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Alaska

Profile of Drug Indicators: Drug Use, Crime Statistics, and Other Related Data



December, 1998

State of Alaska

This profile was compiled by ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Demographics¹

- Population: 611,300
- Gender: There are 318,239 males (52%), and 293,061 females (48%) in Alaska
- Race: Alaska's racial breakdown is 74.25% white, 4.45% black, 4.49% Hispanic, and 16.67% Aleut, Eskimo and Indian.
- Age: In Alaska those under the age of 19 make up 34.24% of the total population. Those between the age of 20 and 29 make up 12.2%, those between the age of 30 and 64 make up 48.42% of the total population and those who are 65 or older make up 5.14 % of the population.

Key Political Figures²

- Governor: Tony Knowles
- Lt. Governor: Fran Ulmer
- Alaskan Congressional Delegation: Senator Ted Stevens, Senator Frank Murkowski, Congressman Don Young
- Attorney General: Bruce Botelho
- Department of Corrections Commissioner: Margaret Pugh
- Director of the Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse: Loren Jones
- Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety: Ronald L. Otte

Funding

- Drug Free Communities Support Program: Two organizations in Alaska received³ grants from the Drug Free Communities Support Program in Fiscal Year 1998.
 - Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, located in Sitka, Alaska, received \$98,720 for their coalition. The contact for this program is Jonathan Wunrow.
 - The Bering Strait Coalition for Prevention, located in Nome, Alaska, received \$100,000 for their coalition. The contact for this program is Douglas McCoy

Funding in the State of Alaska⁴

Grant Program/Agency	Amount	Fiscal Year
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners/ Correction Program Office	\$338,428	1998
Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Formula Grant/ Bureau of Justice Assistance	\$2,242,000	1998
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program/ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention	\$669,000	1998
Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant/ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention	\$1,605,800	1998
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant/ Center Substance Abuse Treatment	\$2,045,493	1998

FY 1997 Byrne Formulas Subgrant Totals in Alaska, by purpose area⁵

Purpose Area	Amount
Demand Reduction	\$69,312
Task Forces	\$1,361,753
Eradication	\$76,572
Innovative Drug Programs	\$174,551
Domestic Violence	\$5,001
Detention Alternatives	\$173,173
Street Sales	\$59,822
Total Grant Award	\$2,245,865
Total in Sub Award	\$1,920,184
Total Projects in Development	\$325,681

Note: There is a total of 26 Purpose Area, the ones not listed did not receive an allocation from the grants.

Crime and Enforcement in Alaska

- In 1997 Alaska had a total of 39 State and local law enforcement agencies with a total of 679 State employees and 1,932 local law enforcement employees.
- There were 4,220 prisoners incarcerated in Alaskan facilities during 1997, this was up 13.6% from the 1996 figure of 3,716.⁶
- Of the 1,095 drug abuse violation arrests in 1997, 198 of the offenders were under the age of 18, this is down from 379 in 1996 and 333 in 1995.

Arrests in Alaska: 1995-1997⁷

Offense	1995	1996	1997
Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter	26	28	20
Forcible Rape	102	113	64
Robbery	190	164	47
Aggravated Assault	1,081	1,215	903
Burglary	783	852	536
Larceny Theft	4,050	3,983	1,288
Motor Vehicle Theft	538	452	233
Arson	26	28	19
Drug Abuse Violations	1,503	1,619	1,095
Driving Under the Influence	4,047	4,373	2,198
Liquor Laws	1,906	1,281	1,526
Drunkenness	7	2	8

Drugs in Alaska⁸

- In a recent survey of perceptions and opinions of people living in Alaska, the biggest problem mentioned in the communities surveyed was alcohol abuse and the sale and use of illicit drugs.
- Southeast Alaska and Anchorage are the primary transportation areas of illicit drugs produced in Alaska. Kodiak, Fairbanks, Anchorage and Unalaska are distribution points for illicit drugs coming into Alaska from North America and Mexico.
- Marijuana- The primary drug of choice for Alaska is readily available in the State as well as produced in Alaska. The demand for marijuana from Alaska continues to grow due to the high levels of THC, as high as 29.8%. Alaska passed stiffer penalties for larger crop cultivation's, initially some growers turned to smaller crops but in recent years larger operations have been discovered. A primary location for marijuana crops is Matanuska Valley, using indoor cultivation techniques a recent operation in the Valley had 1,200 marijuana plants in 3 different locations. The product was being shipped to Hawaii for \$3,800 a pound. The valley is less than a hundred miles from the transportation center Anchorage. The Kenai Peninsula and Interior Region are also known growing sites.
- Cocaine- Is readily available in most areas of the State, and is increasing in rural areas. Crack cocaine use, and distribution have increased dramatically in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska two largest cities. Major investigations of two cocaine distribution rings by a Statewide multi-jurisdictional task force increased cocaine seizure amounts 56% in 1995.

- Other Drugs- Inhalant use among young people has increased in Alaska. Methamphetamine use, manufacturing and distribution have increased not only in the urban areas of Alaska but also in the rural areas. Heroin, and hallucinogens use and distribution are present in Alaska but at lower levels than other drugs.
- Medical marijuana has been approved for use in Alaska by ballot.⁹

Sources

¹ Alaska Department of Labor Research and Analysis Section Demographics Unit, web site <http://www.labor.state.ak.us/research/pop/popmain.htm#Popdata1>

² State of Alaska Web Site, <http://www.state.ak.us/>

³ Office of National Drug Control Strategy, Roster of FY 1998 Drug-Free Communities Support Program, <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/prevent/drugfree/chart2.html>

⁴ Office of Justice Programs, Correction Programs Office, *State Efforts to Reduce Substance Abuse Among Offenders*, October 1998.

⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, *Supporting America's Criminal Justice Communities: Annual Report, Fiscal Year 1997*, September 1998.

⁶ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 1997*, August 1998.

⁷ U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 1995-1997, Uniformed Crime Reports*, October 1996, September 1997, and November 1998.

⁸ State of Alaska, Alaska Department of Public Safety, *Drug Control and System Improvement Formula Grant Statewide Strategic Plan and Application, FY 1996*, 1996

⁹ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Status of State Marijuana Initiatives, http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/map_m.html

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